

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-8, 10-11 have been amended without prejudice and without acquiescence to incorporate the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice and without acquiescence. Claim 12 has been added. Yet further, Applicants have amended the specification to insert where appropriate the corresponding WO publication numbers for the SE and PCT application numbers and to conform the text to the amended figures. Amended figures 3 and 7 are included herein, in which the amendments are indicated in red. The amendments to the figures are merely to clarify the elements illustrated in the figures. Still further, Applicants also submit formal drawings to replace the informal drawings that were originally filed. No new matter has been added.

The issues outstanding in this application are as follows:

- Claims 1-8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hancock et al. (5,716,825).

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejections, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hancock et al. (5,716,825). The Action states that Hancock et al. disclose a microfluidic device comprising an MS-analyte presentation unit for an EDI-MS apparatus in which the unit comprises an essentially planar support plate which on one side has one, two or more ports comprising an EDT area for presenting the MS-analyte in which the EDI area comprises a layer of conducting material. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 9 without prejudice and without acquiescence. In light of this amendment, the rejection is moot and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-8, 10-11 have been amended without prejudice and without acquiescence to incorporate the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice and without acquiescence. Claim 12 has been added. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. 10102582 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Melissa W. Asosta

Registration No.: 45,872

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

1301 McKinney, Suite 5100

Houston, Texas 77010-3095

(713) 651-5151

(713) 651-5246 (Fax)